

Amendments to the Claims

Kindly amend claims 1, 8, and 15-17 and add new claims 18 & 19 as set forth below. The changes in the amended claims are shown by underlining (for added matter) and strikethrough (for deleted matter).

1. (Currently Amended) A method of invoice entry, comprising the steps of:

entering data from an invoice, by a first person, into a first database having a status indicator associated with said data from said invoice, and setting said status indicator to entered;

entering a subset of said data from said invoice, by a second person different from said first person, into said first database to insure accuracy of the data entered into the first database by the first person from the invoice;

matching said subset of said data entered by said second person with said data entered by said first person and highlighting any unmatched entries;

either re-entering said unmatched entries by said second person and changing said status indicator to audit passed, or setting said status indicator to audit failed, or setting said status indicator to audit passed if there are no unmatched entries;

either posting said entered invoice data by said first person, to a second database, if said status indicator is audit passed, or re-entering said unmatched entries by said first person, changing said status indicator to re-entered and thereafter proceeding to said matching step, or changing said status indicator, by said first person to cancel; and

tracking a length of time that said status indicator has each ~~at least one~~ of said entered setting, said audit passed setting, said audit failed setting, and said re-entered setting, wherein said length of time is employed to audit said invoice entry.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data from said invoice is entered by said first person into a plurality of fields.

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3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said subset of said data from said invoice is entered by said second person into a plurality of fields.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data from said invoice is entered into a plurality of fields and said fields are selected from the group consisting of document number, invoice number, invoice date, purchase order number, baseline date, amount, terms, and vendor number.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said setting said status indicator to audit failed further comprises specifying a reason.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said specifying a reason further comprises selecting a specify reason push button.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising entering a user identification by said second person for providing an audit trail.

8. (Currently Amended) An invoice entry system, comprising:

means for entering data from an invoice, by a first person, into a first database having a status indicator associated with said data from said invoice, and setting said status indicator to entered;

means for entering a subset of said data from said invoice, by a second person different from said first person, into said first database to insure accuracy of the data entered into the first database by the first person from the invoice;

means for matching said subset of said data entered by said second person with said data entered by said first person and highlighting any unmatched entries;

means for either re-entering said unmatched entries by said second person and changing said status indicator to audit passed, or setting said status indicator to audit failed, or setting said status indicator to audit passed if there are no unmatched entries;

means for either posting said entered invoice data by said first person, to a second database, if said status indicator is audit passed, or re-entering said unmatched entries by said first person, changing said status indicator to re-entered and thereafter proceeding to said matching step, or changing said status indicator, by said first person to cancel; and

tracking a length of time that said status indicator has each ~~at least one~~ of said entered setting, said audit passed setting, said audit failed setting, and said re-entered setting, wherein said length of time is employed to audit said invoice entry.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said means for entering data from said invoice further comprises means for entering said data into a plurality of fields.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said means for entering said subset of said data from said invoice further comprises means for entering said subset of said data into a plurality of fields.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said fields are selected from the group consisting of document number, invoice number, invoice date, purchase order number, baseline date, amount, terms, and vendor number.

12. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said means for setting said status indicator to audit failed further comprises means for specifying a reason.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, further comprising a specify reason push button.

14. (Original) The system of claim 8, further comprising means for entering a user identification by said second person for providing an audit trail.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for instructing a processor to enter invoices, said computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium;

first program instruction means for entering data from an invoice, by a first person, into a first database having a status indicator associated with said data from said invoice, and setting said status indicator to entered;

second program instruction means for entering a subset of said data from said invoice, by a second person different from said first person, into said first database to insure accuracy of the data entered into the first database by the first person from the invoice;

third program instruction means for matching said subset of said data entered by said second person with said data entered by said first person and highlighting any unmatched entries;

fourth program instruction means for either re-entering said unmatched entries by said second person and changing said status indicator to audit passed, or setting said status indicator to audit failed, or setting said status indicator to audit passed if there are no unmatched entries;

fifth program instruction means for either posting said entered invoice data by said first person, to a second database, if said status indicator is audit passed, or re-entering said unmatched entries by said first person, changing said status indicator to re-entered and thereafter proceeding to said matching step, or changing said status indicator, by said first person to cancel;

sixth program instruction means for tracking a length of time that said status indicator has each ~~at least one~~ of said entered setting, said audit passed setting, said audit failed setting, and said re-entered setting, wherein said length of time is employed to audit said invoice entry; and wherein

all said program instruction means are recorded on said medium.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising deleting entered invoice data from this first database if the length of time that the status indicator has a particular ~~the at least one~~ setting exceeds a defined threshold, wherein the particular setting comprises one of said entered setting, said audit passed setting, said audit failed setting, and said re-entered setting.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, further comprising means for deleting entered invoice data from the first database if the length of time that the status indicator has a particular ~~the at least one~~ setting exceeds a defined threshold, wherein the particular setting comprises one of said entered setting, said audit passed setting, said audit failed setting, and said re-entered setting.

18. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the second database is part of a procurement application, the procurement application comprising an SAP procurement application.

19. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the second database is part of a procurement application, the procurement application comprising an SAP procurement application.

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